

Welcome to the Biweekly Restoration Information Update Page. This web site

- Provides current information on wetland and river corridor restoration projects
- Recognizes outstanding restoration projects
- Provides a forum for information sharing

*We welcome the submission of articles and announcements related to your restoration project. Just send your write-up to EPA's contractor at [restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com](mailto:restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com) or mail it to Kathryn Phillips, Biweekly Restoration Update Coordinator, Tetra Tech, Inc., 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340, Fairfax, VA 22030. We will carefully consider your submission for inclusion in a future update. If your submission is selected, please note that it might be edited for length or style before being posted. Because this web site is meant to be a public forum on restoration information, we cannot post any information that is copyrighted or information that serves or has the appearance to serve as advocating or lobbying for any political, business, or commercial purposes.*

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- [Community-Based Restoration Partnerships](#) - This section highlights innovative community-based partnerships working to restore wetlands and river corridors.
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- [News and Announcements](#) - This section includes up-to-date information on regulatory issues affecting restoration, conference and workshop announcements, and other newsworthy tidbits.
- [Restoration-Related Web Sites](#) - Check out other groups on the Web that are helping in the effort to restore wetlands and river corridors.
- [Information Resources](#) - Books, journals, fact sheets, videos, and other information resources to aid you in your restoration project are provided here.

## Feature Article

### **Spunky Bottoms Preserve Comes Alive**

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy's Illinois Chapter, the Illinois River's floodplain ecosystem is one step closer to recovery. With its purchase of the 1,157-acre Spunky Bottoms Preserve in October 1997, TNC set the stage for a massive restoration project. Since then, they've worked with diverse partner organizations to restore the natural hydrology and reintroduce native flora, as well as establish monitoring programs to assess the success of the restoration effort and develop new floodplain management techniques. TNC's ultimate goal is to restore some 300 acres of uplands and more than 800 acres of Illinois River floodplain habitat, including open water, marsh, wet prairie, mesic prairie, and bottomland hardwood forests, to support native plant and animal communities like those that existed in presettlement days.

The Spunky Bottoms Preserve property is in the natural floodplain of the Illinois River. Before the purchase by TNC, levees and pumps installed in the early 1900s had allowed the area to be used for crop agriculture use. To begin to restore the area, TNC removed the pumps and allowed water to again gather in the floodplain. Because of cost considerations and the potential for flooding adjacent lands, TNC will not remove the levee; however, they do plan to construct a water control structure through the levee to allow water to enter Spunky Bottoms as the river rises during natural seasonal fluctuations.

The next step of the restoration effort was the reintroduction of native flora. In January 1999, college students helped TNC plant almost 6,000 hardwoods on lowland areas and hundreds of pounds of prairie seeds, including big bluestem, Indian grass, black-eyed Susan, and prairie coreopsis, on 110 acres of floodplain. By the following spring the area was flourishing not only with the newly planted native grasses, flowering plants, and trees, but also with wild millet, cattails, water lilies, rushes, and sedges from seeds that had lain dormant for almost a century. The success of the revegetation was proven when an estimated 16,000 waterfowl returned to the area—nearly twice the number that had returned the year before the restoration.

TNC is also using Spunky Bottoms as a living laboratory to help develop and evaluate relatively new floodplain management techniques. Therefore, TNC and its partners are monitoring the responses of plant and animal communities to the restoration efforts. One project includes monitoring water quality in partnership with the Wetlands Initiative and local high school students. Other monitoring projects at the preserve and respective partners include water quality and hydrology (Illinois State University and The Wetlands Initiative); vegetation (The Wetlands Initiative and Illinois Natural History Survey); mosquitoes and biting flies (University of Illinois); butterflies (MacMurray College); fish, amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl, and wetland-associated birds (Illinois Natural History Survey); breeding birds (volunteers); and mammals (University of Illinois). For more information on the Spunky Bottoms Preserve, see [www.nature.org/states/illinois/preserves/art1113.html](http://www.nature.org/states/illinois/preserves/art1113.html) or call the TNC's Great Rivers area office in Havana, Illinois, at 309-543-6502.

*If you'd like your project to appear as our next Featured Article, e-mail a short description to [restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com](mailto:restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com).*

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## Community-Based Restoration Partnerships

### **Volunteers Celebrate Earth Day by Protecting the Big Darby**

On Earth Day weekend 2001, community volunteers helped celebrate the success of stream protection efforts along the Big Darby Creek in Ohio. The 86-mile creek is the major stream in a 370,000-acre watershed and flows through six central Ohio counties. Eighty-five percent of the watershed's 560 square miles is in agricultural production. Located in the North Central Tillplain Ecoregion, the watershed includes 245 miles of streams and tributaries.

Through land and conservation easement purchases over the past 2 years, The Nature Conservancy and a number of local agencies (including the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Franklin County Metroparks, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service) have permanently protected 190 acres along the Big Darby Creek in southern Franklin County. To celebrate and build on this success, community volunteers gathered on Earth Day weekend to kick off the restoration of a 700-foot-wide riparian area along 55 acres of Big Darby floodplain. Volunteers planted approximately 19,000 tree saplings along a 1-mile stretch of the creek. They planted 15 different native species, including oak, hickory, red maple, green ash, dogwood, and box elder. Franklin County Metroparks plans to plant prairie grasses in fall 2001 to restore an additional 90 acres of Big Darby floodplain. For more information on the restoration project, see

<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/ohio/science/art9801.html> or contact the Darby Creek Watershed Program at 6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 50, Dublin, OH 43017. Phone: 614-717-2770; e-mail: [asasson@tnc.org](mailto:asasson@tnc.org).

### **Tampa BayWatch Saves the Bay**

Tampa BayWatch Inc. is a nonprofit stewardship organization that uses innovative solutions to solve the complex problems facing the Tampa Bay estuary. Tampa BayWatch developed a program to create oyster reef communities in canals with poor water quality where the water is too deep for mangrove or salt marsh establishment. The oyster reef communities benefit the ecosystem by filtering the water and providing habitat for a variety of fish, crabs, shrimp, shorebirds and other wildlife. The oyster reefs are established by homeowners that voluntarily install oyster reef balls on seawalls or under docks on their property. Last year, local students and

homeowners worked together to install more than 250 reef balls in the Northeast St. Petersburg area, and residents wishing to participate in the program continue to place orders. Tampa BayWatch also provides a variety of other educational programs designed to build citizen awareness, concern, and participation in the bay estuary ecosystem. Programs offered by Tampa BayWatch include salt marsh planting projects, seagrass restoration, the Great Bay Scallop Search, the Manatee Watch Program, and storm drain marking projects. Through these programs and others, Tampa Baywatch has trained citizen volunteers, students, scout troops, at-risk youth, and civic organizations to participate in environmental projects while heightening awareness of the fragile bay ecosystem.

A portion of the funding for Tampa BayWatch is provided by the Environmental Fund for Florida (EFF). EFF, a coalition of Florida's environmental nonprofit organizations, provides funding to member organizations by raising money through workplace giving campaigns and payroll deductions. Support of Tampa BayWatch by both energetic volunteers and generous workplace donations has helped this organization make a difference in the health of the bay ecosystem. For more information, see [www.tampabaywatch.org/index.html](http://www.tampabaywatch.org/index.html) or contact Tampa BayWatch Inc. at 8401 Ninth Street North, Suite 230-B, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Phone: 727-896-5320. For information on EFF, contact Jack LaBounty at 727-898-9587.

*If you are part of an innovative community-based partnership that is working to restore river corridors or wetlands, we'd like to hear from you. Please send a short description of your partnership to [restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com](mailto:restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com).*

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## Funding for Restoration Projects

### Chesapeake Bay Program Issues FY2002 Request for Proposals

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's, Chesapeake Bay Program is issuing a request for proposals (RFP) that will further the goals of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement. Up to \$750,000 may be available for fiscal year 2002. The Chesapeake Bay Program is seeking innovative, cost-effective proposals to accomplish the outcomes listed in the RFP. These outcomes were designed to help meet the Chesapeake 2000 goals. Any nonprofit organization; federal, state, or local government agency; interstate agency; or college or university is eligible to submit a proposal in response to the RFP. Funding will be provided to an organization under the authority of Clean Water Act section 117.

The RFP will be available May 30, 2001, at the following web site: [www.epa.gov/r3chespk](http://www.epa.gov/r3chespk). You can obtain a paper copy by contacting Kim Scalia at 215-814-5421 or by e-mail at [scalia.kim@epa.gov](mailto:scalia.kim@epa.gov) or by contacting Lori Mackey at 410-267-5715 or by e-mail at [mackey.lori@epa.gov](mailto:mackey.lori@epa.gov). All proposals must be postmarked by Monday, July 16, 2001. Late, incomplete, or faxed proposals will not be considered.

Please send any news you have on funding mechanisms available to local community organizations to [restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com](mailto:restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com).

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## News and Announcements

### 2001 National Wetlands Award Recipients Honored:

Please join the Environmental Law Institute in honoring the 2001 National Wetlands Awards recipients. The awards recognize outstanding persons that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the conservation and restoration of our nation's wetlands.

### 2001 National Wetlands Award Winners

#### Education/Outreach:

Louis Armin-Hoiland, Arcata High School, California

#### Science Research:

James Gosselink, Coastal Ecology Institute—Louisiana State University, Louisiana

**Volunteer Leadership:**

Norma Flannery, Oxbow, Incorporated, Ohio

**Land Stewardship and Development:**

Ken Brunswick, Friends of Limberlost, Indiana

Mike and Cathy McNeil, McNeil Ranch, Colorado

**Outstanding Wetlands Program Development:**

Ernie Barnett, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida

Shannon Estenoz, World Wildlife Fund, Everglades Project, Florida

**Final Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program Rule Published**

The Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program seeks to compensate farmers for protecting sensitive, highly erodible wetlands on their property. This pilot program focuses on protecting low-lying draws or waterways that run through crop fields and carry runoff and topsoil into creeks and rivers in wet years and are farmed in dry years. Previously, the Conservation Reserve Program compensated farmers for grass filter strips surrounding these farmed wetlands but not for the actual wetlands themselves. Under the Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program, farmers can enroll the wetland acreage within the buffer or filter strip for payment. A coalition of various farm, conservation, wildlife, and environmental groups have worked together to make the pilot program possible. Under this program, farmers in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Montana can enroll up to 500,000 additional acres of farmable wetlands in the Conservation Reserve Program. The final "Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program" rule is in the Federal Register; a copy is at <http://www.fb-net.org/CRP/WP/index.htm>. A copy of the law, as included in the 2001 Federal Appropriations Act, is at <http://fb-net.org/news/ConRpt01WetP.htm>.

[Link no longer available, October 2003]

**Upcoming Conferences and Events:****NEW LISTINGS:****8th International Waterfowl and Wetlands Symposium****The Waterfowl Legacy: Links to Watershed Health**

**July 21-22, 2001**

**Memphis, Tennessee**

To promote an open exchange of ideas, Ducks Unlimited hosts the International Waterfowl Symposium every 5 years. Experts from around the world gather to share their research findings and their opinions on a range of issues affecting waterfowl, wetlands, and their management. The four sessions this year will cover Watershed Health and Waterfowl, North American Waterfowl Management Plan Checkup, The Future of Waterfowl, and Beyond North America.

The symposium will be held at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. For more information, see

[www.ducks.org/conservation/symposium\\_conference\\_2001.asp](http://www.ducks.org/conservation/symposium_conference_2001.asp) or contact Brenda Carlson, Ducks Unlimited at One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120. Phone: 901-758-3707; e-mail [bcarlson@ducks.org](mailto:bcarlson@ducks.org).

**Salmon and Steelhead in Your Creek: A Conference on Science, Policy and Conservation Action**

**November 14-15, 2001**

**Oakland, California**

The Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration and the Oakland Museum are sponsoring this symposium, with financial support from the William H. Donner Foundation, the Greenbelt Alliance, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment. The symposium will address the progress of restoration activities in Bay Area watersheds, regulatory agency perspectives on local fish populations,

and opportunities for restoration funding. Send a message to [symposium@cemar.org](mailto:symposium@cemar.org) to get on the mailing list for registration materials.

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#### **PREVIOUS LISTINGS:**

##### **The Society for Ecological Restoration 13th Annual International Conference: Restoration Across Borders**

**October 4-6, 2001**

**Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada**

The Society for Ecological Restoration will host a conference dealing with restoration issues that have worldwide applications. Topics covered in the conference will include restoration and recovery in the Great Lakes, restoration issues on private and public lands, partnerships in restoration, invasive species control, and river and riparian restoration. For more information, contact [ser2001@niagarac.on.ca](mailto:ser2001@niagarac.on.ca) or call 905-641-2252 x4473 and ask for AI.

##### **Managing River Flows for Biodiversity: A Conference on Science, Policy and Conservation Action**

**July 30-August 2, 2001**

**Fort Collins, Colorado**

Sponsored by American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, and other nonprofit organizations and federal resource agencies, this conference will address the challenges of protecting natural river flows as competing demands for water increase. Participants will benefit from new information, tools, and networking opportunities to advance flow restoration and protection goals. For more information, visit [www.freshwaters.org/conference](http://www.freshwaters.org/conference) or contact Jamie Mierau, American Rivers, at e-mail [jmierau@americanrivers.org](mailto:jmierau@americanrivers.org).

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## **Restoration-Related Web Sites**

[www.btnep.org](http://www.btnep.org)

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program is a partnership between EPA and the state of Louisiana created under the National Estuary Program. The program's charter was to develop a coalition of government, private, and commercial interests to identify problems, design pollution control strategies, recommend corrective actions, and seek implementation commitments for the preservation of Louisiana's Barataria and Terrebonne basins. The program focuses on developing sustained citizen involvement in activities such as educational field trips, vegetation planting campaigns, and cleanup efforts. The web site also provides wetland-related scientific and educational materials.

[www.greatswampinc.org/main.html](http://www.greatswampinc.org/main.html)

The Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc., is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to foster environmental education, preserve biological diversity, and conserve and manage natural resources in the Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario watersheds. The conservancy supports several ongoing programs to restore lands on the Oneida Lake Plains back to native wetlands. This web site provides information about the nature center's programs and operations, ongoing projects, and current and back issues of the Great Swamp Conservancy newsletter.

[www.mawpt.org](http://www.mawpt.org)

The Arkansas Multi-Agency Wetland Planning Team is made up of state agency representatives that promote wetlands conservation through the implementation of the Arkansas Statewide Wetland Strategy. This site provides a wealth of information on Arkansas wetlands, the Arkansas Statewide Wetlands Strategy, classroom materials for teachers, an informative pictorial tour of Arkansas wetlands, and links to other wetland-related sites.

[www.rwrp.umt.edu](http://www.rwrp.umt.edu)

The Riparian and Wetland Research Program (RWRP) is a research arm of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station within the School of Forestry at the University of Montana,



Missoula. The program deals with issues relating to the ecology and management of riparian areas and wetlands in the state and the region. RWRP performs research and outreach services for the Montana Riparian and Wetland Association.

*Let us know about your restoration-related web site. Please send relevant URLs to [restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com](mailto:restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com).*

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## Information Resources

The Practice of Watershed Protection: Techniques for Protecting and Restoring Urban Watersheds Publication by the Center for Watershed Protection

This 800-page book is organized around the eight tools of watershed protection and is indexed for easy reference. It is drawn from past issues of Watershed Protection Techniques as well as a number of other papers and reports from the Center for Watershed Protection. The book costs \$80 and contains 150 articles on all aspects of watershed protection. It can be ordered from the web site at [www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org).

### **Protecting Local Wetlands: A Toolbox for Your Community:**

Publication released by Save San Francisco Bay Association

This publication is designed to help government officials, public agency and nonprofit staff, community activists, and landowners protect and restore their local wetlands. Thorough attention is given to federal and state regulation. To order your copy of this 142-page publication, go to [www.savesfbay.org](http://www.savesfbay.org), e-mail [savebay@savesfbay.org](mailto:savebay@savesfbay.org), or call 510-452-9261.

### **Protecting and Restoring Watersheds: A Tribal Approach to Salmon Recovery**

Publication by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

This free 100-page handbook explains the Columbia River tribes' strategic approach to watershed restoration, including watershed assessment, watershed protection, active and passive restoration, and monitoring. The book also includes an extensive resource section with links to web sites, bibliographies, and contacts at organizations that can help you get started on the ground. The handbook draws on up-to-date science, is presented in easy-to-understand language, and is intended to help watershed organizations, landowners, and other natural resource practitioners undertake restoration in ways consistent with the tribal restoration philosophy. It is organized around the concept that good science, good sense, and good partnerships produce good results. Visit <http://www.critfc.org/oldsite/handbook/TitlePage.html> to view the book on the web. To obtain a copy, contact Jill Ory in the Watershed Department at Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Phone: (503) 238-0667; e-mail: [oryj@critfc.org](mailto:oryj@critfc.org).

### **Waterline**

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Rockaway River, Inc.

This bimonthly newsletter provides information on river cleanup opportunities, tips for fishing, and a variety of articles focused on watershed conservation and restoration. For more information, contact the Friends of the Rockaway River, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Hotline: (973) 586-8691; e-mail: [a.sandus@att.net](mailto:a.sandus@att.net).

### **Report on Block Granting Forest Service Programs Available**

Publication by the Pinchot Institute

The Pinchot Institute recently released a report titled Allocating Cooperative Forestry Funds to the States: Block Grants and Alternatives. The Forest Service contracted the report in response to a request from Congress made in last year's appropriations bill. The report is available electronically at [www.pinchot.org/pic/cfnews.htm](http://www.pinchot.org/pic/cfnews.htm), or a hard copy can be requested by calling 202-797-6580 or sending e-mail to [alsayyed@pinchot.org](mailto:alsayyed@pinchot.org).

*If you'd like to publicize the availability of relevant information resources, please send information to [restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com](mailto:restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com).*